

We claim:

- 1 1. A polymorphic form of 9-nitrocamptothecin, the polymorph being  
2 characterizable as having, by differential scanning calorimetry, an endotherm at  
3 between 273.9 to 275.9 °C, and an exotherm at between 279.3 and 281.3 °C.
- 1 2. A polymorphic form of 9-nitrocamptothecin according to claim 1, the  
2 polymorph being further characterizable as having, by differential scanning  
3 calorimetry, an endotherm at between 274.4 to 275.3 °C, and an exotherm at between  
4 279.8 and 280.8 °C.
- 1 3. A polymorphic form of 9-nitrocamptothecin according to claim 1, the  
2 polymorph being further characterizable as having, by differential scanning  
3 calorimetry, an endotherm at between 274.7 to 275.1 °C, and an exotherm at between  
4 280.1 and 280.5 °C.
- 1 4. A polymorphic form of 9-nitrocamptothecin according to claim 1, the  
2 polymorph being further characterizable as having, by differential scanning  
3 calorimetry, an endotherm at between 274.8 to 275.0 °C, and an exotherm at between  
4 280.2 and 280.4 °C.
- 1 5. A polymorphic form of 9-nitrocamptothecin, the polymorph being  
2 characterizable as having, by differential scanning calorimetry, an endotherm at  
3 between 273.9 to 275.9 °C, and an exotherm at between 279.3 and 281.3 °C.
- 1 6. A polymorphic form of 9-nitrocamptothecin, the polymorph being  
2 characterizable as having, for Cu  $K\alpha$  radiation of wavelength of 1.5406 Angstrom, an  
3 X-ray powder diffraction pattern with diffraction lines at  $2\theta$  values 4.8, 14.2, 19.1  
4 and 26.8.

1 7. 9-nitrocamptothecin in a form crystallized from acetonitrile.

1 8. A polymorphic form of 9-nitrocamptothecin according to claim 7, the  
2 polymorph being characterizable as having, differential scanning calorimetry, an  
3 endotherm at between 273.9 to 275.9 °C, and an exotherm at between 279.3 and 281.3  
4 °C.

1 9. A polymorphic form of 9-nitrocamptothecin according to claim 7, the  
2 polymorph being characterizable as having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern with  
3 diffraction lines at  $2\theta$  values 4.8, 14.2, 19.1 and 26.8 for Cu  $K\alpha$  radiation of  
4 wavelength 1.5406 Angstrom.

1 10. A polymorphic form of 9-nitrocamptothecin according to claim 7, the  
2 polymorph being characterizable as having, for Cu  $K\alpha$  radiation of wavelength 1.5406  
3 Angstrom, an X-ray powder diffraction pattern with diffraction lines at  $2\theta$  values  
4 4.8, 14.2, 19.1 and 26.8.

1 11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:  
2 a pharmaceutical carrier; and  
3 a polymorphic form of 9-nitrocamptothecin, the polymorph being  
4 characterizable as having, by differential scanning calorimetry, an endotherm at  
5 between 273.9 to 275.9 °C, and an exotherm at between 279.3 and 281.3 °C.

1 12. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 11, the polymorph being  
2 further characterizable as having, by differential scanning calorimetry, an endotherm  
3 at between 274.4 to 275.3 °C, and an exotherm at between 279.8 and 280.8 °C.

1 13. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 11, the polymorph being  
2 further characterizable as having, by differential scanning calorimetry, an endotherm  
3 at between 274.7 to 275.1 °C, and an exotherm at between 280.1 and 280.5 °C.

- 1 14. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 11, the polymorph being  
2 further characterizable as having, by differential scanning calorimetry, an endotherm  
3 at between 274.8 to 275.0 °C, and an exotherm at between 280.2 and 280.4 °C.
- 1 15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:  
2 a pharmaceutical carrier; and  
3 a polymorphic form of 9-nitrocamptothecin, the polymorph being characterizable as  
4 having, by differential scanning calorimetry, an endotherm at between 273.9 to 275.9  
5 °C, and an exotherm at between 279.3 and 281.3 °C.
- 1 16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:  
2 a pharmaceutical carrier; and  
3 a polymorphic form of 9-nitrocamptothecin, the polymorph being characterizable as  
4 having, for Cu  $K\alpha$  radiation of wavelength of 1.5406 Angstrom, an X-ray powder  
5 diffraction pattern with diffraction lines at  $2\theta$  values 4.8, 14.2, 19.1 and 26.8.
- 1 17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:  
2 a pharmaceutical carrier; and  
3 a polymorphic form of 9-nitrocamptothecin crystallized from acetonitrile.
- 1 18. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 17, the polymorph being  
2 characterizable as having, differential scanning calorimetry, an endotherm at between  
3 273.9 to 275.9 °C, and an exotherm at between 279.3 and 281.3 °C.
- 1 19. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 17, the polymorph being  
2 characterizable as having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern with diffraction lines at  
3  $2\theta$  values 4.8, 14.2, 19.1 and 26.8 for Cu  $K\alpha$  radiation of wavelength 1.5406  
4 Angstrom.

1 20. A method of preparing a polymorphic form of 9-nitrocamptothecin, the  
2 method comprising:  
3 crystallizing 9-nitrocamptothecin from acetonitrile.

1 21. A method according to claim 20, the polymorph being characterizable as  
2 having, differential scanning calorimetry, an endotherm at between 273.9 to 275.9 °C,  
3 and an exotherm at between 279.3 and 281.3 °C.

1 22. A method according to claim 20, the polymorph being characterizable as  
2 having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern with diffraction lines at  $^{\circ}2\theta$  values 4.8,  
3 14.2, 19.1 and 26.8 for Cu  $K\alpha$  radiation of wavelength 1.5406 Angstrom.